

[The Arizona Republic](#)

President **Barack** **Obama** today gave a shoutout to Rep. **Harry Mitchell**, D-Ariz., for his work on the Post 9/11 G.I. Bill, which went into effect Saturday. Obama was speaking at a G.I. Bill event at George Mason University in the Washington, DC, suburb of Fairfax, Va.

Obama mentioned Mitchell as one of the original bill sponsors who couldn't attend the event.

"All of them worked hard along with the delegation that is present, so we are very grateful to all of them," Obama said.

In the tradition of the original, post-World War II G.I. Bill [\(authored by the late former Sen. Ernest McFarland, D-Ariz.\)](#)

, the new law offers education benefits to the more than 2 million active-duty military members who have served since the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001.

"We have a responsibility to serve those who have bravely served us," Mitchell said Friday in a written statement. "As a former teacher, I know the value of a quality education and I'm glad that this historic investment we are making in our veterans is coming to fruition."